**Help Working with SAS Files Outside of SAS**

**SAS Syntax Files:**

* Make sure you always \*SAVE\* your SAS syntax periodically and before you close SAS. Do so by clicking the ‘save’ icon (or control+S).
* You can write SAS code in any text editor, but when there are problems using Word, because Word prints quotation marks like **”** and not like **"**  . SAS does not seem to understand the former and the two are not interchangeable as far as it is concerned. So, if you use Notepad or Wordpad instead of Word, then you should be able to copy the syntax into SAS.
* An alternative to Notepad is the free program Textpad: <http://www.textpad.com/>   
  Textpad has “document classes” that recognize what kind of program the text is for based on the file extension, and then colors it accordingly. So it will \*look\* just like SAS code, HTML code, etc. You will find a long list of styles you can download for free on this page:   
  <http://www.textpad.com/add-ons/synn2t.html>

**SAS Output Files as HTML:**

* By default SAS 9.3 sends output to an html-based results window (i.e., a web page).   
  You can change the color scheme it uses by clicking through the menus as follows:  
  TOOLS 🡪 OPTIONS 🡪 PREFERENCES 🡪 RESULTS tab, under the HTML section, there is a drop-down menu for styles.
* However, this pretty results window does not behave like the old-school results listing, which could be cleared between runs and copied into other programs easily. Thus, you’ll end up with every permutation of every model you tried, which may be confusing when you go back to try and figure out where to look!
* So to clear the results window in between runs and only have what you \*just ran\* show up in the results window, add this text below right BEFORE the PROC statement:  
    
  **ODS HTML FILE="&myfile.\YourFileName.html" STYLE=HTMLBLUE;**  
    
  The &myfile. reference would have been defined earlier as the path location where you want your file to go (i.e., the same place you imported your data from). After the \ write whatever you want your file to be called, followed by the .html extension.
* Optionally, you can change the STYLE to be whatever colors you want. Built-in styles include default, minimal, nofontdefault, printer, rtf, statdoc, theme, fancyprinter, sansprinter, sasdocprinter, serifprinter. You can also define your own styles via PROC TEMPLATE.
* Then, after the RUN statement that closes your PROC, add this:  
    
  **ODS HTML CLOSE;**This command closes the html file, which then means that the next time you run the same code (ODS HTML + PROC…. RUN; + ODS HTML CLOSE), the results viewer will only show what you just ran. In addition, you will see that it saved the file to the same place your homework data were imported from automatically. The saved html file can be opened outside of SAS using any web browser. You can also save your output as html manually using “save as… webpage HTML only” from the results window.

**SAS Output Files as Other Formats:**

* Although the html output above is pretty, it doesn’t easily allow you to manipulate it   
  (i.e., to use it directly in tables). Thus, if you type this before the PROC instead:  
    
  **ODS HTML FILE="&myfile.\YourFileName.xls" STYLE=MINIMAL;**  
    
  And have the same thing as before after the RUN that closes the PROC:  
    
  **ODS HTML CLOSE;**Then you will end up with an excel worksheet that has your results in tables you can format easily to use elsewhere (e.g., in a paper in which color is not allowed).
* Alternatively, you can send your output file to a rich text file that can be opened in Word. Thus, if you type this before the PROC instead:  
    
  **ODS RTF FILE="&myfile.\YourFileName.rtf" STARTPAGE=NO STYLE=STATISTICAL BODYTITLE;**  
    
  The “statistical” style looks nice in Word but there are many others to chose from as well. BODYTITLE prints your titles in the document instead of as headers, and STARTPAGE=NO prevents SAS from inserting page breaks between models. And have the same thing as before after the RUN that closes the PROC:  
    
  **ODS RTF CLOSE;**Then you will end up with an Word document that has your results.
* Finally, you can send your output file combined with your log to a text file that can be opened in Word (or rtf if you want). Thus, if you type this before the PROC instead:

**PROC PRINTTO PRINT="&filepath.\Example\_SAS\_Output.txt"   
 LOG= "&filepath.\Example\_SAS\_Output.txt"; RUN;**

And have this after the RUN that closes the PROC, then you will have one combined file:

**PROC PRINTTO; RUN;**